

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2123
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2000
MARKETING NETWORK
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of regulated markets in the country at present, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Union Government provides financial assistance/technical knowhow and other facilities to State Government for setting up these markets;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Union Government propose to bring all the regulated markets in the country under a network in the age of information technology;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and steps taken in this regard;
- (f) whether PHD Chambers of Commerce and ASSOCHAM have given certain suggestions for success of marketing network; and (g) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a) to (c): The number of regulated markets in the country as on 31.3.1999 is 7075. The details of regulated markets are given in Annexure. At present, there is no scheme to give financial assistance to the State Governments and U.T. Administrations for setting up of such markets. However, the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection renders technical guidance to the States in framing and implementation of Agricultural Produce Marketing

(Regulation) Acts for regulation of markets.

(d) & (e): The Department has formulated a new scheme for 'Agricultural Marketing Information Network' under which important markets in the country are proposed to be linked.

(f): Yes, Sir.

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(g): The PHD Chamber of Commerce held a National Seminar on Problems of Small and Marginal farmers in Marketing fruits and Vegetables on 20-21 August, 1998 at New Delhi. One session was devoted to 'Issues in Marketing of Fruits and Vegetables in India.' In their report, they have suggested that efforts may be made to improve marketing facilities for marginal and small farmers so that their interests are protected and they get the best price for their produce. The role of middlemen in the existing infrastructure needs to be reduced to the minimum through direct procurement by large retailers from the farmers. The Government should provide transportation, storage, processing and marketing facilities at the farms level which are vital elements in an efficient marketing system. There is a need to build up a post harvest handling system to take care of the fruits and vegetables from farms to retail markets. ASSOCHAM has, inter alia, suggested that restrictions on the movement of various agricultural commodities should be completely removed and that futures trading in agricultural commodities should be allowed. These suggestions would be examined and necessary action will be taken.

The suggestions received from PHD Chamber of Commerce have been examined. The Government have formulated five new schemes for strengthening, upgrading and expanding agricultural marketing network in the country. In order to further develop the post-harvest handling system for fruits and vegetables, Government have recently approved a scheme of capital investment subsidy for construction/expansion/modernisation of cold storages/storages.

Annexure

S.No. States/UTs Number of regulated markets

1	Andhra Pradesh	841
2	Arunachal Pradesh	-
3	Assam	35
4	Bihar	813
5	Goa	6
6	Gujarat	396
7	Haryana	284
8	Himachal Pradesh	35
9	Jammu & Kashmir	-
10	Karnataka	473
11	Kerala	-
12	Madhya Pradesh	606
13	Maharashtra	855
14	Manipur	-
15	Meghalaya	-
16	Mizoram	-
17	Nagaland	-
18	Orissa	144
19	Punjab	675
20	Rajasthan	403
21	Sikkim	-
22	Tamil Nadu	270
23	Tripura	21
24	Uttar Pradesh	645
25	West Bengal	542
26	Andaman & Nicobar	-
27	Chandigarh	3
28	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-
29	Daman & Diu	-
30	Delhi	22
31	Lakshdweep	-
32	Pondicherry	6
	Total	7075